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RECENT LITERATURE.

The Mesozoic Echinodermata of the United States.¹—This memoir, issued as Bulletin No. 97 of the U. S. Geol. Survey, is the first of a series of reports on the American fossil radiates. A complete bibliography of the subject is followed by a systematic review of the various forms, in which brief descriptions, giving merely the characteristics necessary for accurate determination of species, is the rule. The geological range of the American Mesozoic species is shown in tabular form, and, in conclusion, there is an index to the various terms employed by those who have written upon the Mesozoic Echinodermata of the United States.

The memoir is profusely illustrated, the plates, 50 in number, occupying over half the volume. Many details of structure not given in the text are shown in the drawings. This book fills a need, as no general work on the subject exists, but students were compelled to search through a much scattered literature for information and identification.

Tertiary Rhynchophorous Coleoptera of the United States.²—This monograph is the first of a series upon the fossil insects of this country by Dr. S. H. Scudder. In its preparation, besides a number of specimens which could not be definitely placed, the author has examined 753 Rhynchophora, of which 431 come from Florissant and 320 from the Gosiute fauna. In the introduction Dr. Scudder gives in tabular statements (1) a comparative view of recent and fossil Rhynchophora; (2) the relative importance of the families of group; (3) the relative abundance of the orders of insects in different Western deposits.

In conclusion the author makes the following statements regarding the Rhynchophorous fauna of the American Tertiaries in general:

“(1) The general facies of the fauna is American, and somewhat more southern than its geographical position would indicate.

“(2) All the species are extinct, and though the Gosiute Lake and the ancient lacustrine basin of Florissant were but little removed from

¹ The Mesozoic Echinodermata of the United States, by W. B. Clark. Bull. No. 97, U. S. Geol. Survey, Washington, 1893.

² Monographs of the United States Geological Survey, Vol. xxi. Tertiary Rhynchophorous Coleoptera of the United States, by Samuel Hubbard Scudder, Washington, 1893.

each other, and the deposits of both are presumably of Oligocene age, not a single instance is known of the occurrence of the same species in the two basins.

"(3) No species is identical with any European Tertiary form.

"(4) A very considerable number of genera are extinct, often including a number of species.

"(5) Existing genera which are represented in the American Tertiaries are mostly American, not infrequently subtropical or tropical American, and where found also in the Old World are mostly those which are common to the North Temperate Zone. A warmer climate than at present is indicated.

"(6) There are no extinct families, but in one instance an extinct subfamily with numerous representatives.

"(7) The Tertiary European fauna is nearer than our own Tertiary fauna in the relative preponderance of its families, subfamilies and tribes."

"These conclusions are almost identical, word for word, with those reached from a study of the Tertiary Hemiptera of the United States, although in that study a far more meagre representation of the Gosiute fauna was at hand."

The Fishes of Pennsylvania.³—In an octavo volume of 139 pages Dr. Tarleton Bean gives in a concise form descriptions of all the species of fishes found in the State of Pennsylvania, with notes upon their common name, distribution, size, habits, reproduction, rate of growth and mode of capture. The descriptions are based upon specimens contained in the collection of the United States National Museum, and the popular notes have been obtained by personal investigation and, in part, by compilation from the writings of Goode, Gill, Cope and Jordan.

The most important fishes are represented on 35 plates, of which 15 are handsomely colored. Dr. Bean's well-known reputation as an ichthyologist is fully sustained by this work, and it fully justifies the State in incurring the expense necessary to its publication. Its value is both utilitarian and educational.

³ The Fishes of Pennsylvania, by Tarleton H. Bean, M. D., Harrisburg, Pa., 1893.